



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

<b>GM4</b>	<b>RURAL AND REGIONAL TASKFORCE</b>
	<b>FILE: 131 CC: 579 AVB {Folio No. *}</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

To recommend issues to be included in Council's submission to the Rural and Regional Task Force.

◇◇◇◇◇◇

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Council at its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August resolved:

1. That Council identify the issues of concern to this Council and the community and prepare a submission to the NSW Rural Taskforce.
2. That the matter be referred to MIDGOC for their support.
3. That a report be submitted on this matter to the September Ordinary Council meeting.

The matter was referred to the MIDGOC meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August and they are to prepare a Regional submission based on points submitted by member Councils.

As mentioned in the Mayoral Minute on the MIDGOC meeting the Grafton meeting is to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Local Government has been allocated 10.30am to 12.30pm on that day to present their submissions if they wish.

The State Government is well aware of Regional Australia's shortcomings in many areas through the work undertaken by the Percy Allen Report and through the Vinson Report. However, Council's submission should re-highlight these deficiencies outlining local specific issues and examples. The terms of reference of the Taskforce are:

- Examine the profile of, and demographic trends in, individual rural and regional areas;
- Examine the current and emerging factors driving changes in demand for, and the delivery of, services to rural and regional communities; and

- Identify potential actions to address current and emerging economic, environmental and social issues affecting rural and regional communities across NSW.

In giving effect to the above, the Taskforce will:

- Examine other relevant review processes which have been, or are being, undertaken at the local, State and Commonwealth levels in relation to these issues;
- Invite public submissions, hold public forums and consult with individuals, business and community groups, local government and other stakeholders with an interest in rural and regional areas; and
- Conduct its work while considering existing NSW Government policies, including the State Plan and other relevant policy documents.

Council's submission should cover the following:

- Mid North Coast Regional Strategy
- Sydney Centric Planning Reform Agenda
- Funding of Infrastructure by both State and Commonwealth Governments
- Unemployment
- Access to public health services
- Kempsey Hospital
- Transport services
- Aged facilities and infrastructure
- Facilities for youth
- Broadband
- Police numbers
- Showground

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***Nil***

- ***Social***

***Nil***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

*Nil*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

- *General Manager's Review*

*Nil*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council prepares a submission to the Rural and Regional Taskforce based on the points outlined in the report.**

.....  
**A V Burgess**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**